

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The preliminary amendment is provided in order to focus the pending claims on the restricted Group III and the elected species of Example 3. Amendments to certain claims remove the multiple dependency from an earlier multiply dependent claim. Also, a typographical error is corrected in claim 1 (relating to X<sup>3</sup>). No new matter is provided.

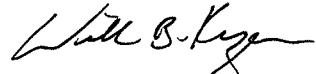
Upon entry of the present amendment, claims reading on the elected species of Example 3 (within Group III) are claims 1, 2, 9, and 11-18.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for substantive review on the merits.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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